

Remarks

This is in response to the Office action dated December 4, 2007, in which claims 1-40 were pending, claims 13-23, 29 and 33-40 are withdrawn from consideration, and claims 1-12, 24-28 and 30-32 were rejected.

With the present response, the applicants amend claims 1 and 27. The applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-12, 24-28 and 30-32, as amended, i.e. all currently pending claims, are presently in condition for allowance. The applicants accordingly request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims in light of the remarks herein.

Oumi does not anticipate claim 1 as amended

In the Office action, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) with reference to U.S. patent no. 6,473,384 issued to Oumi et al. The applicants have herein amended claim 1. The claim amendments are well-supported by the specification. The applicants submit that Oumi does not anticipate the subject matter of claim 1 as amended. As an illustrative example, Oumi does not disclose or suggest a suspension interface comprising a pivot and a pivot socket, wherein the pivot is rotatably engaged with the pivot socket. Therefore, the applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is novel over Oumi under §102.

Kohira and Oumi do not render obvious claims 1-12, 24-28 and 30-32 as amended

In the Office action, claims 1-12, 24-28 and 30-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) with reference to U.S. Patent No. 6,628,480 issued to Kohira et al. in combination with Oumi. The applicants have herein amended claims 1 and 27. The claim amendments are well-supported by the specification. The applicants submit that Kohira and Oumi do not render obvious the subject matter of claims 1 and 27 as amended. As an illustrative example, Kohira and Oumi do not disclose or suggest a suspension interface comprising a pivot and a pivot socket, wherein the pivot is rotatably engaged with the pivot socket, as in claim 1; nor do Kohira and Oumi disclose or suggest a means for operatively suspending a slider from a suspension, the means comprising a

pivot and a pivot socket, wherein the pivot is rotatably engaged with the pivot socket, as in claim 27. Therefore, Kohira and Oumi do not render claims 1 or 27 obvious under §103.

Similarly, the applicants submit that claims 2-12, 24-26, 28, and 30-32 are non-obvious over Kohira and Oumi, due at least to the novel and non-obvious features they incorporate by dependency from claims 1 and 27 in accordance with the discussion above, in addition to their further novel and non-obvious elements. The applicants therefore request that the rejections of these claims also be reconsidered and withdrawn in light of the amendments and remarks herein.

Conclusion: Claims 1-12, 24-28, and 30-32 are in condition for allowance

In view of the above comments and remarks, the applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are all presently in condition for allowance. The applicants therefore hereby request that the rejection of claims 1-12, 24-28 and 30-32 be reconsidered and withdrawn and that these claims be allowed.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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